

HOUSE BILL No. 1345

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 10-17-13.

Synopsis: Veterans' affairs trust study group. Establishes the veterans' affairs trust fund and board to provide assistance to veterans and their families. Makes an appropriation.

Effective: July 1, 2006.

Noe, Reske

January 16, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures.

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First Regular Session 115th General Assembly (2007)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1345

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning public safety and to make an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 10-17-13 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2006]:
4 **Chapter 13. Veterans' Affairs Trust Fund**
5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "board" refers to the veterans'**
6 **affairs trust fund board established by section 4 of this chapter.**
7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the veterans'**
8 **affairs trust fund established by section 3 of this chapter.**
9 **Sec. 3. (a) The veterans' affairs trust fund is established to**
10 **provide assistance to veterans and their families.**
11 **(b) The fund consists of the following:**
12 **(1) Appropriations by the general assembly.**
13 **(2) Donations, gifts, grants, and bequests to the fund.**
14 **(3) Interest and dividends on assets of the funds.**
15 **(4) Money transferred to the fund from other funds.**
16 **(5) Money from any other source deposited in the fund.**
17 **Sec. 4. The veterans affairs' trust fund board is established.**



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Sec. 5. The board consists of the following members:

(1) Seven (7) members appointed by the governor. The governor shall consider the following when making appointments under this subdivision:

(A) Membership in:

(i) a veterans association established under IC 10-18-6; or

(ii) a veterans organization listed in IC 10-18-8-1.

(B) Service in the armed forces of the United States (as defined in IC 5-9-4-3) or the National Guard (as defined in IC 5-9-4-4).

(C) Experience in education, including higher education, vocational education, or adult education.

(D) Experience in investment banking or finance.

The governor shall designate one (1) member appointed under this subdivision to serve as chairperson of the board.

(2) The director of veterans' affairs appointed under IC 10-17-1-5 or the director's designee.

(3) The adjutant general of the military department of the state appointed under IC 10-16-2-6 or the adjutant general's designee.

(4) Four (4) members of the legislature appointed as follows:

(A) Two (2) members of the senate, one (1) from each political party, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate with advice from the minority leader of the senate.

(B) Two (2) members of the house of representatives, one (1) from each political party, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives with advice from the minority leader of the house of representatives.

Members appointed under this subdivision are nonvoting, advisory members and must serve on a standing committee of the senate or house of representatives that has subject matter jurisdiction over military and veterans affairs.

Sec. 6. The board shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chairperson of the board.

Sec. 7. Five (5) voting members of the board constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of five (5) members of the board is necessary for the board to take action.

Sec. 8. The term of a board member begins on the later of the following:

(1) The day the term of the member whom the individual is

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1 appointed to succeed expires.

2 (2) The day the member is appointed.

3 (b) The term of a member expires on the later of the following:

4 (1) The day a successor is appointed.

5 (2) July 1 of the year following the year in which the member
6 is appointed.

7 However, a member serves at the pleasure of the appointing
8 authority.

9 (c) An appointing authority may reappoint a member for a new
10 term.

11 (d) An appointing authority shall appoint an individual to fill a
12 vacancy on the board.

13 Sec. 9. (a) Each member of the board who is not a state
14 employee is entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by
15 IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is also entitled to reimbursement
16 for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other
17 expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties
18 as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the
19 Indiana department of administration and approved by the state
20 budget agency.

21 (b) Each member of the board who is a state employee but who
22 is not a member of the general assembly is entitled to
23 reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under
24 IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection
25 with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and
26 procedures established by the Indiana department of
27 administration and approved by the budget agency.

28 (c) Each member of the board who is a member of the general
29 assembly is entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and
30 travel allowances paid to legislative members of interim study
31 committees established by the legislative council. Per diem,
32 mileage, and travel allowances paid under this subsection shall be
33 paid from appropriations made to the legislative council or the
34 legislative services agency.

35 Sec. 10. (a) The board shall manage and develop the fund and
36 the assets of the fund.

37 (b) The board shall do the following:

38 (1) Establish a policy for the investment of the assets of the
39 fund. In establishing a policy under this subdivision, the board
40 shall:

41 (A) consider the immediate needs of veterans and their
42 families to the extent those needs are not addressed by the

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1 military family relief fund established by IC 10-17-12-8;
2 and

3 (B) have as its long term goal creating a self-sustaining
4 fund that is not dependent on legislative sources of
5 funding.

6 (2) Acquire money for the fund through the solicitation of
7 private or public donations and other revenue producing
8 activities.

9 (3) Perform other tasks consistent with prudent management
10 and development of the fund.

11 Sec. 11. (a) Subject to the investment policy of the board
12 established under section 10 of this chapter, the treasurer of state
13 shall administer the fund and invest the money in the fund.

14 (b) The expenses of administering the fund and this chapter
15 shall be paid from the fund.

16 (c) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not
17 currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same
18 manner as other public trust funds are invested. Interest that
19 accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

20 Sec. 12. (a) An appropriation made by the general assembly to
21 the fund shall be allotted and allocated at the beginning of the fiscal
22 period for which the appropriation is made.

23 (b) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not
24 revert to the state general fund or any other fund.

25 (c) Except as provided by an enactment of the general assembly,
26 there is annually appropriated to the board all the money in the
27 fund for purposes of this chapter.

28 Sec. 13. Before October 1 of each year, the board shall report in
29 an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 to the general assembly
30 concerning the fund.

31 Sec. 14. The board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to do the
32 following:

33 (1) Establish programs to be funded by the fund. The board
34 shall consider the following needs of veterans and their
35 families in establishing programs under this subdivision:

36 (A) Education.

37 (B) Economic assistance, including grants and loans.

38 (C) Health and medical care.

39 (D) Housing and transportation needs.

40 (E) Employment and workforce issues.

41 (F) Any other issue the board determines is appropriate.

42 (2) Determine eligibility and application procedures for

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1 programs described in subdivision (1).

2 (3) Otherwise implement this chapter.

3 **Sec. 15. There is annually appropriated from the state general**
4 **fund to the board an amount sufficient to carry out the purposes of**
5 **this chapter.**

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